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Attorney Docket No. D25.2H-11301-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A container package assembly comprising:

a first support member and a second support member, each of the first support member and second support member having a front side, a back side, a right side and a left side, the first support member and the second support member being arranged along a common plane wherein one of the sides of the first support member is immediately adjacent to one of the sides of the second support member,

the first support member further comprises at least one wall, the at least one wall having a wall length and a wall height, the at least one wall being substantially perpendicular to a support surface of the first support member, the at least one wall defining at least a portion of at least one of the front side, back side, right side and left side of the first support member,

the second support member further comprises at least one wall, the at least one wall having a wall length and a wall height, the at least one wall being substantially perpendicular to a support surface of the second support member, the at least one wall defining at least a portion of at least one of the front side, back side, right side and left side of the second support member, the support surface of the first support member and the support surface of the second support member defining a total support area;

a plurality of containers, the plurality of containers positioned on the support surface of the first support member and the second support member;

a top pad, the top pad positioned on top of the containers, the top pad extending over at least a portion of each of the containers, the top pad having a pad surface oriented substantially parallel to the support surface of the first support member, the pad surface having an area that is less than the total support area; and

a film; [[,]]

the support members, the plurality of containers and the top pad comprising an assembly, the assembly at least partially encapsulated by the film.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the wall height of at least a portion of the at least one wall of the first support member and second support member tapers from a first height to a second height, wherein the second height is less than the first height.

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3. (Original) The assembly of claim 2 wherein the wall height of the at least a portion of the at least one wall of the first support member and the second support member defines a substantially arcuate taper from the first height to the second height.
4. (Original) The assembly of claim 2 wherein the wall height of the at least a portion of the at least one wall of the first support member and the second support member defines a substantially linear taper from the first height to the second height.
5. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the right side of the first support member is immediately adjacent to the left side of the second support member.
6. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the right side of the first support member is immediately adjacent to the right side of the second support member.
7. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the front side of the first support member is immediately adjacent to the front side of the second support member.
8. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the front side of the first support member is immediately adjacent to the back side of the second support member.
9. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the back side of the first support member is immediately adjacent to the back side of the second support member.
10. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the right side of the first support member comprises a right wall and the left side of the first support member comprises a left wall.
11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10 wherein the wall height of at least a portion of the right wall and the left wall tapers from a first height to a second height, wherein the second height is less than the first height.
12. (Original) The assembly of claim 10 wherein the front side of the first support member comprises a front wall.
13. (Original) The assembly of claim 11 wherein the front side of the first support member comprises a front wall, the wall height of the front wall being less than about the first height.
14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13 wherein the wall height of the front wall is less than about the second height.
15. (Original) The assembly of claim 10 wherein the back side of the first support member comprises a back wall.
16. (Original) The assembly of claim 13 wherein the back side of the first support member

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comprises a back wall, the wall height of the back wall being at least as high as the wall height of the front wall.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 10 wherein the right side of the second support member comprises a right wall and the left side of the second support member comprises a left wall.

18. (Original) The assembly of claim 17 wherein the wall height of at least a portion of the right wall and the left wall of the second support member tapers from a first height to a second height, wherein the second height is less than the first height.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 17 wherein the front side of the second support member comprises a front wall.

20. (Original) The assembly of claim 18 wherein the front side of the second support member comprises a front wall, the wall height of the front wall being less than about the first height.

21. (Original) The assembly of claim 20 wherein the wall height of the front wall of the second support member is less than about the second height.

22. (Original) The assembly of claim 17 wherein the back side of the second support member comprises a back wall.

23. (Original) The assembly of claim 19 wherein the back side of the second support member comprises a back wall, the wall height of the back wall of the second support member being at least as high as the wall height of the front wall of the second support member.

24. (Currently amended) A container package assembly comprising:

a first support member and a second support member, each of the first support member and second support member having a front side, a back side, a right side and a left side, the first support member and the second support member being arranged along a common plane wherein one of the sides of the first support member is immediately adjacent to one of the sides of the second support member,

the first support member further comprises at least one wall, the at least one wall having a wall length and a wall height, the at least one wall being substantially perpendicular to a support surface of the first support member, the at least one wall defining at least a portion of at least one of the front side, back side, right side and left side of the first support member,

the second support member further comprises at least one wall, the at least

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one wall having a wall length and a wall height, the at least one wall being substantially perpendicular to a support surface of the second support member, the at least one wall defining at least a portion of at least one of the front side, back side, right side and left side of the second support member;

a plurality of containers, the plurality of containers positioned on the support surface of the first support member and the second support member;

a top pad, the top pad positioned on top of the containers, the top pad extending over at least a portion of each of the containers; and

a film;

the support members, the plurality of containers and the top pad comprising an assembly, the assembly at least partially encapsulated by the film;

~~The assembly of claim 1~~ wherein the at least one wall of the first support member is immediately adjacent the at least one wall of the second support member, the assembly further comprising at least one adhesive, the at least one adhesive adhesively engaging the at least one wall of the first support member to the at least one wall of the second support member.

25. (Original) The assembly of claim 24 wherein the at least one adhesive is a temporary adhesive or a permanent adhesive.

26. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the top pad further comprises:

a front pad side, a back pad side, a right pad side and a left pad side; and

at least one pad wall, the at least one pad wall having a pad wall length and a pad wall height, the at least one pad wall being substantially perpendicular to the ~~the~~ pad surface of the top pad, the at least one pad wall defining at least a portion of at least one of the front pad side, back pad side, right pad side and left pad side of the top pad, the at least one pad wall extending to the pad wall height in a direction substantially toward at least one of the at least one wall of the first support member and the at least one wall of the second support member.

27. (Original) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the at least one pad wall defines at least a portion of the front pad side and at least a portion of the back pad side.

28. (Original) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the at least one pad wall defines at least a portion of the right pad side and at least a portion of the left pad side.

29. (Original) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the at least one pad wall defines at least a

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portion of the front pad side, at least a portion of the back pad side, at least a portion of the right pad side and at least a portion of the left pad side.

30. (Original) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the pad wall height is tapered along at least a portion of the pad wall length.

31. (Original) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the pad wall height is substantially uniform and continuous along the pad wall length.

32. (Original) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the at least one pad wall comprises at least one visible surface, the visible surface having at least one readily visible indicia thereon.

33. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the film is at least partially constructed from at least one polymer material.

34. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the film is a plastic membrane selected from the group consisting of stretch-wrap, shrink-wrap and any combination thereof.

35. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the film is characterized as being translucent.

36. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the film is characterized as being transparent.

37. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the film is characterized as being opaque.

38. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the pad surface area is at least 75% of the total support area.